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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADANA 00057 290954Z

13
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-12 L-03 SCA-01 ISO-00

/025 W
---------- 007720
R 281800Z MAR 74
FM AMCONSUL ADANA
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
SECSTATE WASHDC 659
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ADANA 057
E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC TU
SUBJ: W/W ANTAKYA THREE: MORE ON PRISON CONDITIONS
REF: ADANA 047

1) SUMMARY. INTENSE MEDIA INTEREST AND FLOOD OF MAIL BEGINNING TO TAX PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND JAIL OFFICIALS HERE. CONSULATE'S HELP REQUESTED BUT PERHAPS NOT APPROPRIATE TO GIVE IT. END SUMMARY.

2) AS CHANCE WOULD HAVE IT NBC, CBS AND ABC TELEVISION CONVERGED ON ADANA IN SEVEN DAY PERIOD TO DO STORIES ON ANTAKYA THREE. CBS WILL RETURN FOR FILMING PART OF LARGER DOCUMENTARY EARLY APRIL. VISITORS HAVE ARRIVED IN EACH CASE HAVING TOUCHED

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BASE WITH MININFO AND JUSTICE IN ANKARA, AND LOCAL PRISON APPARAT HAS RECEIVED THEM KINDLY. VISITS HAVE HOWEVER TAXED HOSPITATITY OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AND PRISON DIRECTOR, LARGE AMOUNTS OF WHOSE TIME ARE TAKEN. CONSULATE LED TO HOPE FOR RESPITE THESE OFFICIALS, AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER DATE IN LATE APRIL WHEN APPEAL RESULTS LIKELY TO BE PUBLISHED AND CASE AGAIN BECOMES TOPECAL.

3) ZENZ, MCDANIEL AND HUBBARD THEMSELVES EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT FURTHER INTERVIEWS. RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY THEY BELIEVE MEDIA EXPOSURE IN AMERICA ADDS TO GENERAL INTEREST IN THEIR WELLBEING, PRESSURE TOWARD THEIR RELEASE. ON THE OTHER HAND
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ALL AWARE THAT SOME EARLIER PRESS COVERAGE IN U.S. HAD PREJUDICIAL

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IMPACT. HUBBARD HAS REFUSED ALL INTERVIEWS; ZENZ AND MCDANIEL AGREED TO SEE NBC, BUT ONLY ZENZ TALKED WITH ABC AND AGREED TO SEE CBS WHEN FILMING TAKES PLACE.

4)TIDE OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL HAS PERPLEXED PRISON DIRECTOR. HE DOES NOT WANT TO ABRIDGE MAIL PRIVILEGES, BUT STATES HIS RULES REQUIRE CENSORSHIP AND STAFF OF PERSONS KNOWING ENGLISH PERMITS ONLY SMALL TRICKLE ON MAIL TO GET THROUGH. IN THIS CONNECTION LOCAL JUSTICEMIN OFFICIALS HAVE ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE. THOUGH IT NOT CLEAR IN PRECISELY WHAT CAPACITY A

BILINGUAL TURKISH EMPLOYEE OF CONSULATE WOULD BE ASKED TO PERFORM WE BELIVE THAT AFTER SHORT TIME INCREASING ACUTAL CENSORS HIP WOULD BE DELEGATED OR MORE AND MORE DISCRETION GIVEN IN WHAT OUR MAN WOULD OR WOULD NOT CALL TO ATTENTION OF PRISON OFFICIAL.

5) ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY GUIDANCE REQUESTED ON EXTENT A TURKISH CONSULATE EMPLOYEE MIGHT ASSIST PRISON OFFICIALS IN CENSORSHIP, IF AT ALL. MANPOWER NO GREAT PROBLEM. PITFALLS WOULD BE OUR BEING ASSIGNED BLAME ON BOTH SIDES IF THINGS SHOULD GET OFF TRACK AND OPENING CONSULTAE TO CRITICISM OF SEVERAL KINDS. ALTERNATIVE MAY WILL BE BOTTLENECK THROUGH WHICH AMER-ICANS JAILED HERE COULD NEITHER EXTRACT NOT SEND OUT PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

6) ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT. REQUESTED SUMMARIZE TV COVERAGE, ESPECIALLY IF CONTENTS COULD SOMEHOW PROVE PREJUDICIAL.

HALLMAN

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